

DR.
STRANGE™

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DOCTOR STRANGE

MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS

ANOTHER *INSTANT*
AND THE ANCIENT ONE
WILL BE *SAFE* ON EARTH
WITH CLEA AND WONG!

FOOL! TO SAVE
YOUR MENTOR,
YOU'VE TURNED
YOUR BACK ON
THE BLAZING
POWER OF--

**STYGYRO,
THE LIVING
STAR!**

TRAPPED BETWEEN
DIMENSIONS, DR. STRANGE
FIGHTS ALONE!
SHOWDOWN
with **STYGYRO!**



Once he was a man like most others— a worldly man, seduced and jaded by material things. But then he discovered the separate reality, where *sorcery* and *men's souls* shaped the forces that shape our lives. In that instant, he was *born again*, to become a man like no other!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **Dr. STRANGE** MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!™

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WRITER * PENCILER * INKER * VARTANOFF-COLORIST * EDITOR

THE UNIVERSE, AS WE KNOW IT, HAS GONE QUITE MAD--AND ONLY DOCTOR STRANGE HAS ANY HOPE OF EVER SETTING IT ARIGHT.

TO THAT END, THE MYSTIC MASTER HAS COME TO THIS OUTER DIMENSION TO CONFRONT THE POWER BEHIND THE COSMIC INSANITY.

MASTER--
THIS WOULDN'T
BE... ANOTHER
TEST--

-- WOULD
IT?

MY SON,
THIS COULD
WELL BE YOUR
GREATEST TRIAL--
BUT IT IS NOT
OF MY
CREATION.

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THE ANCIENT
ONE SPEAKS
TRUE, STEPHEN
STRANGE!

INDEED,
I AM THE CAUSE
OF ALL THAT HAS
BEFALLEN YOUR
WORLD...YOUR
COSMOS.

I...THE
IN-BETWEENER!

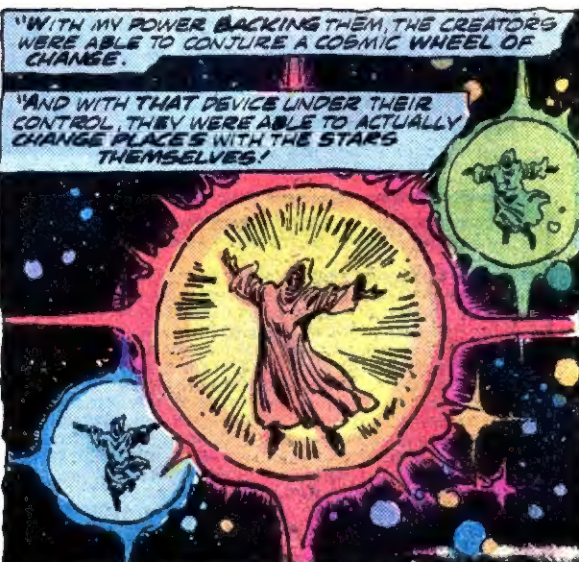
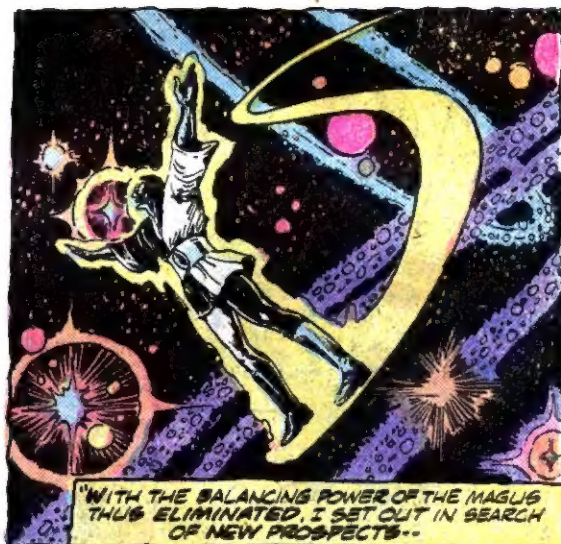
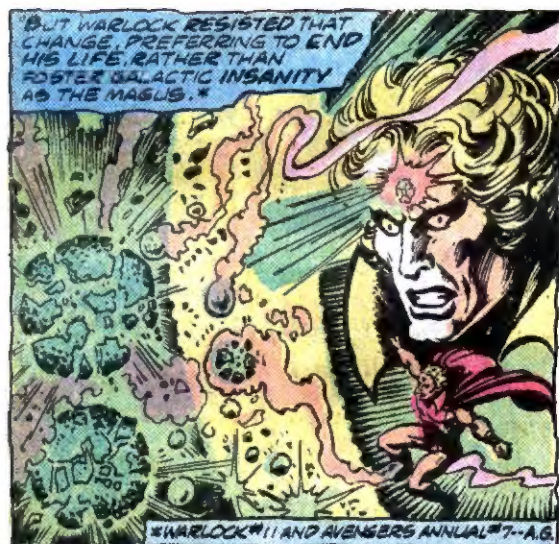
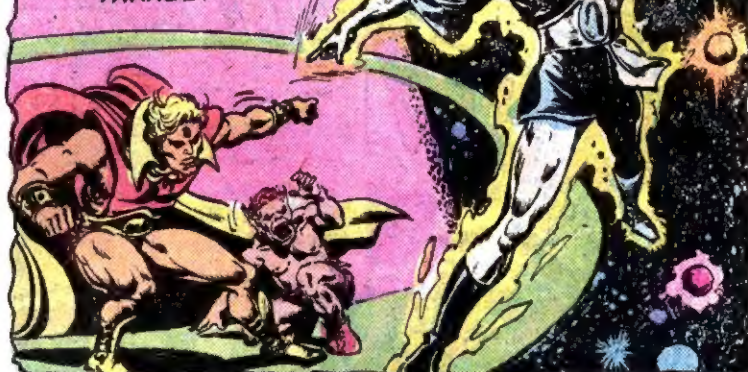
IN TRUTH,
I COULD DO
NAUGHT
ELSE--

-- FOR
SUCH IS THE
BE-ALL AND
END-ALL OF MY
EXISTENCE.





"I WAS CREATED BY LORD CHAOS AND MASTER ORDER TO SEE TO A UNIVERSAL BALANCE 'TWTIXT LIFE AND DEATH--AND SPECIFICALLY, TO TRANSFORM ONE ADAM WARLOCK INTO THE MAGUS, THAT HE MIGHT COUNTER THE DEATH-FORCE OF THE MAD GOD THANOS."



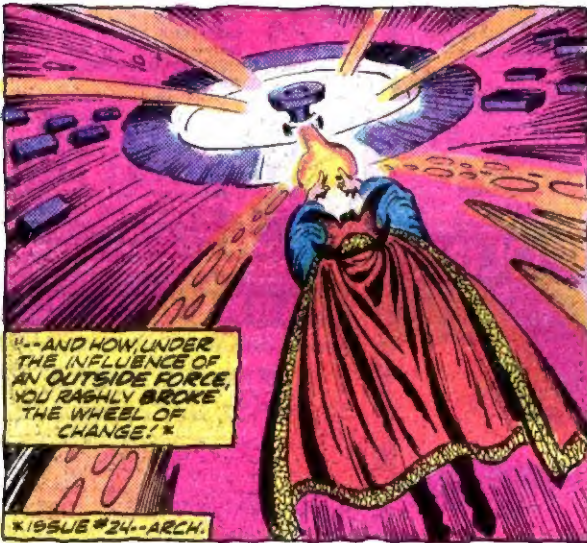
"THE REST YOU SURELY KNOW, STRANGE--
HOW YOU ENTERED THE QUADRIVERSE,
INTENT ON CONFRONTING THE CREATORS--



"--HOW YOU JOINED FORCES
WITH APALLA, A STAR IN
HUMAN FORM, TO BATTLE
THEM--



"--AND HOW, UNDER
THE INFLUENCE OF
AN OUTSIDE FORCE,
YOU RAGHLY BROKE
THE WHEEL OF
CHANGE!"



*ISSUE #24--ARCH.



"YOU HAD SOUGHT TO UNDO THE CREATORS'
MACHINATIONS, BUT INSTEAD YOU CAUSED THE
UNIVERSE TO REFORM INTO A PARODY OF
ITSELF-- A PARODY SO ABSURD--

"--THAT YOUR MENTOR, THE ANCIENT ONE--WHO
HAD BEEN ONE WITH THE UNIVERSE--WAS
FORCED BACK INTO PHYSICAL FORM--



"--TO BECOME
A BROKEN
DERELICT."

*LAST ISSUE--A.G.

YOUR...KNOWLEDGE
OF MY AFFAIRS IS
EXTENSIVE,
IN-BETWEENER.

THERE IS LITTLE THAT
REMAINS HIDDEN FROM
ME, STRANGE. I WALK THE
PATH BETWEEN ALL
WORLDS... ALL
CONCEPTS--

--LIGHT AND
DARK... REALITY AND
ILLUSION... FACT
AND FANCY.





IN-BETWEENER--
WAIT! YOUR
BALANCE NEEDN'T
BE JEOPARDIZED
BY A RESTORED
COSMOS.

SURELY, IF THE
WHEEL CAN BE
RECREATED--!

RECREATED?
BUT THERE IS
NO NEED FOR
THAT!



THE WHEEL OF CHANGE
IS NO MERE TOY TO BE
SMASHED.

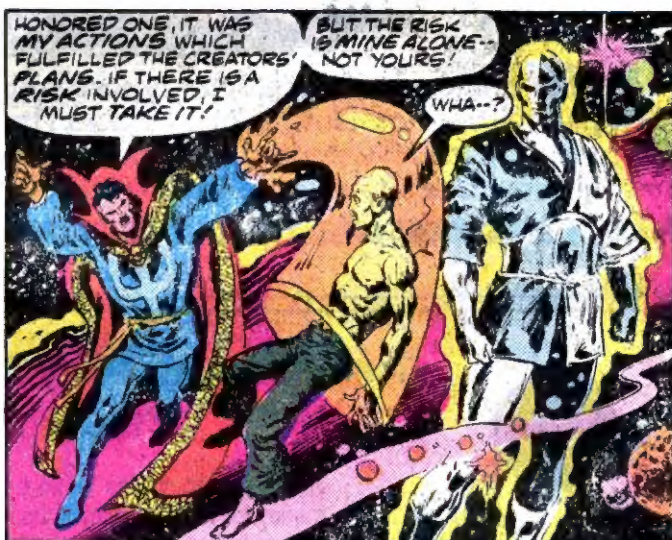
ONCE CONJURED, IT CAN
CHANGE THE DESTINY OF
CONTINUALMS UNTOLD! NO,
YOU ONLY DESTROYED ONE
ASPECT OF THE WHEEL--
IT STILL EXISTS IN
ANOTHER DIMENSION!



AND THIS OTHER
DIMENSION-- CAN
YOU GUIDE ME
THERE?

I CAN

BEWARE,
MY SON! THE IN-
BETWEENER
CANNOT BE LIGHTLY
BARGAINED WITH!
HIS POWER IS
TRULY BEYOND
BELIEF!



HONORED ONE, IT WAS
MY ACTIONS WHICH
FULFILLED THE CREATORS'
PLANS. IF THERE IS A
RISK INVOLVED, I
MUST TAKE IT!

BUT THE RISK
IS MINE ALONE--
NOT YOURS!

WHA--?



MAY THE SHIELD OF
SERAPHIM SEE
YOU TO EARTH,
ANCIENT ONE--

--AND
TO
SAFETY!!

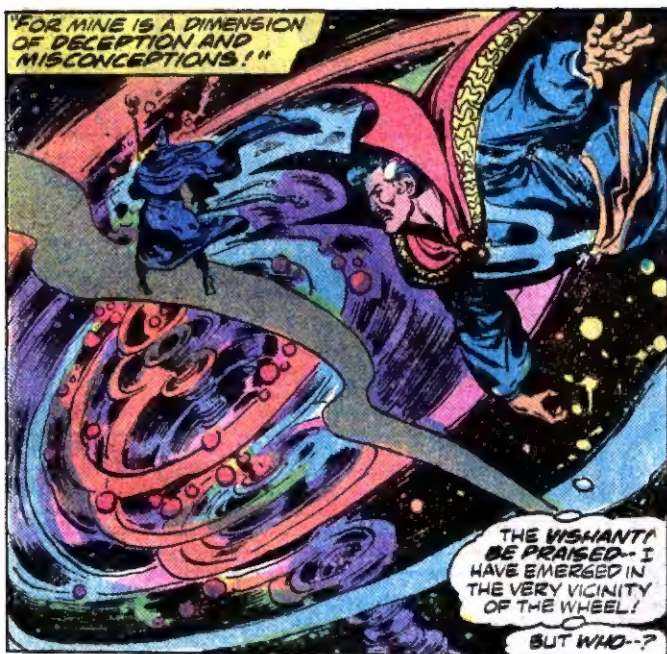
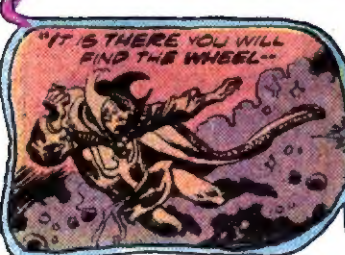


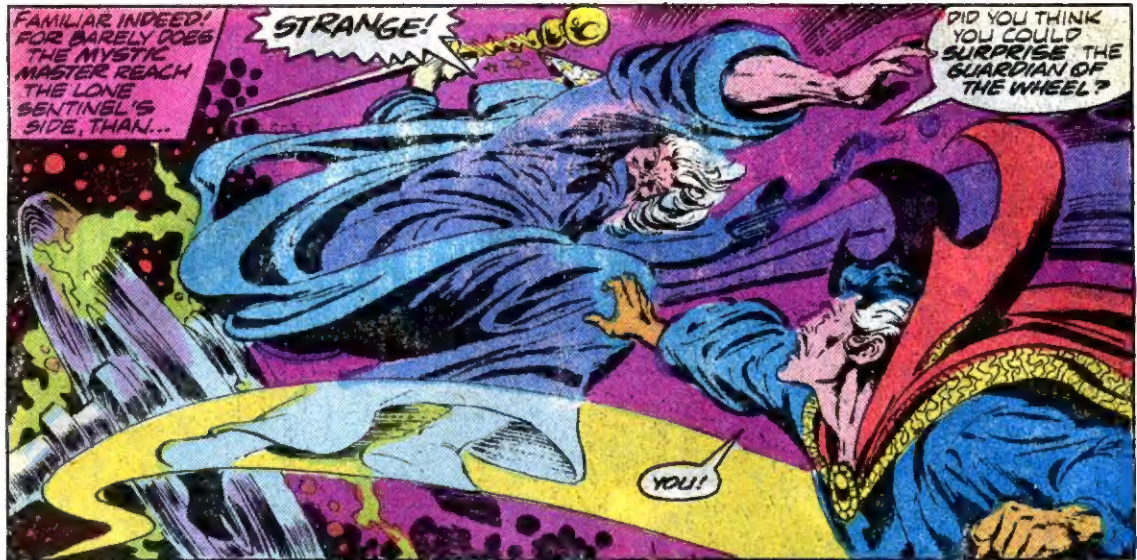
AND IF THE ANCIENT
ONE HAS ANY
OBJECTIONS TO
HIS ABRUPT COMING--
HIS FRAIL
PHYSICAL FORM
KEEPS HIM FROM
VOICING THEM--



--UNTIL HE HAS SPANNED THE
EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL HEAVENS,
AND RE-EMERGED IN THE
REALM OF EARTH.

AND BY THEN
IT IS MUCH
TOO LATE



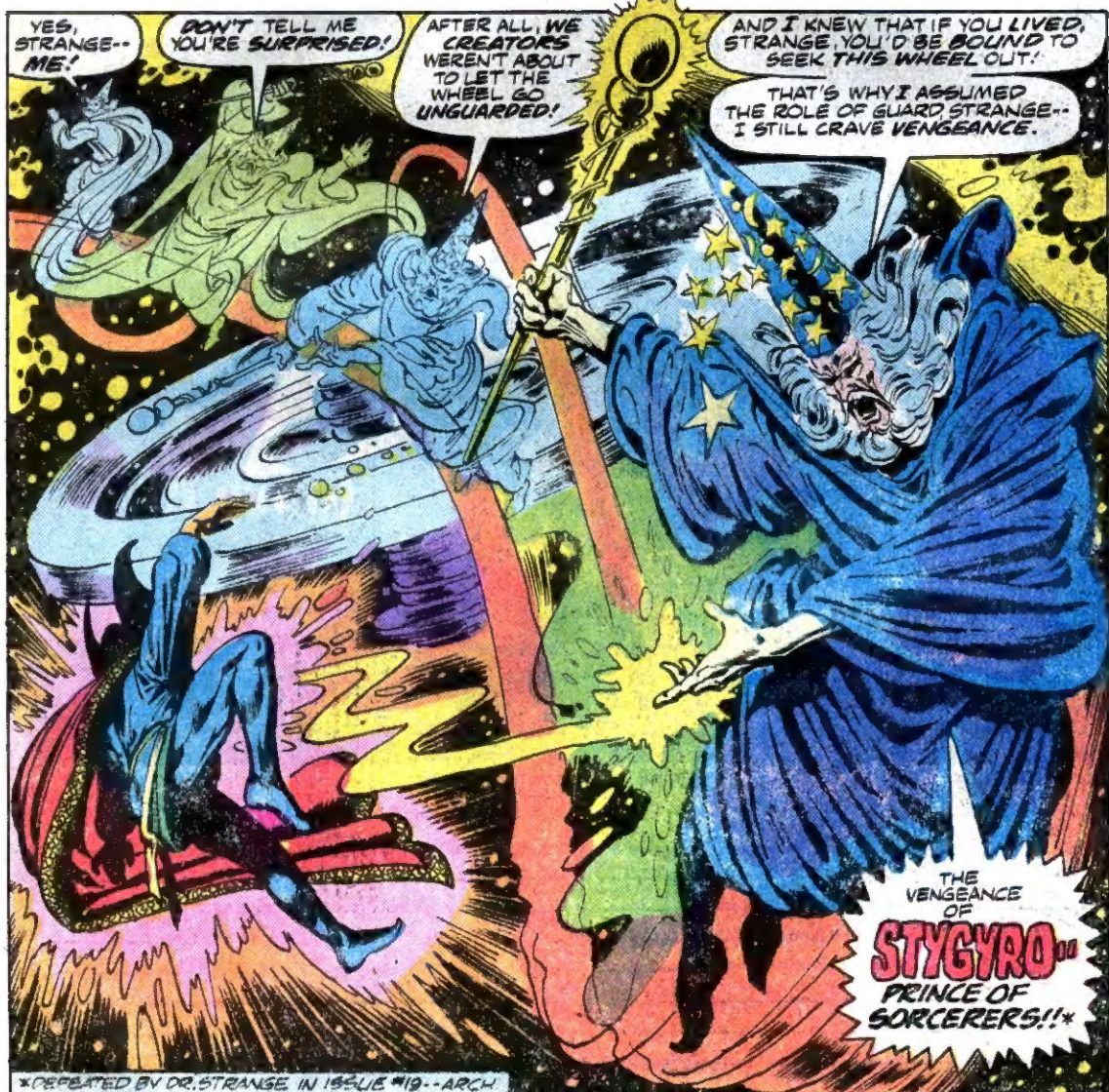


FAMILIAR INDEED!
FOR BARELY DOES
THE MYSTIC
MASTER REACH
THE LONE
SENTINEL'S
SIDE, THAN...

STRANGE!

DID YOU THINK
YOU COULD
SURPRISE THE
GUARDIAN OF
THE WHEEL?

YOU!



YES,
STRANGE--
ME!

DON'T TELL ME
YOU'RE SURPRISED!

AFTER ALL, WE
CREATORS
WEREN'T ABOUT
TO LET THE
WHEEL GO
UNGUARDED!

AND I KNEW THAT IF YOU LIVED,
STRANGE, YOU'D BE BOUND TO
SEEK THIS WHEEL OUT!

THAT'S WHY I ASSUMED
THE ROLE OF GUARD STRANGE--
I STILL CRAVE VENGEANCE.

THE
VENGEANCE
OF
STYGYRO
PRINCE OF
SORCERERS!!*

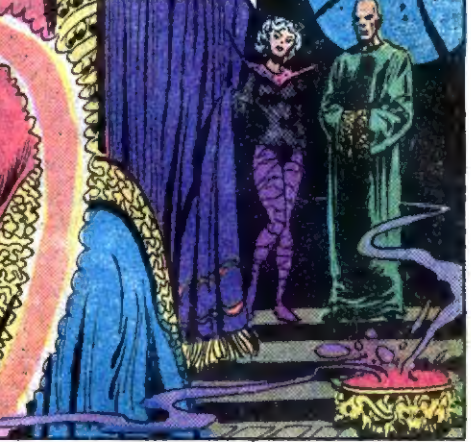
MEANWHILE, ON EARTH, THE IMPOSING STRUCTURE OF STRANGE'S SANCTUM SANCTORUM STANDS OUT LIKE A BEACON OF SANITY AMID A PLANET OF MADNESS.



AND WITHIN THE TWO LONE FIGURES OF NORMALCY ON THIS WORLD STAND WATCH OVER THE CREATORS' GREATEST INSANITY-- DR. STRANGER YET!



STEPHEN'S BOAR-DOUBLE HASN'T STIRRED SINCE I CAST THAT PSYCHE-SPHERE ABOUT HIM, WONG.*



*LAST ISSUE--A.G.

I ONLY PRAY THAT MY SPELL WOULD IN TIME TO SPARE STEPHEN FROM ANY FURTHER HARM!



THEN I MUST ECHO YOUR PRAYERS, MISS CLEA. NEVER HAVE I FEARED SO FOR THE MASTER!

WELL I...! WONG! IT'S THE ANCIENT ONE!



EH?

IT IS THE MASTER'S AGED MENTOR-- RETURNED TO THE FLESH!



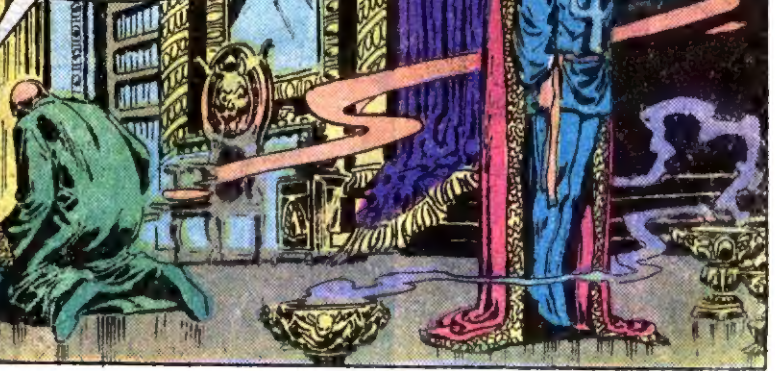
BUT STEPHEN WENT OFF IN SEARCH OF HIM! WHY IS HE HERE?

ANCIENT ONE, WHAT HAS HAPPENED? WHERE IS STEPHEN?



HE... HAS SET OUT TO RIGHT THE COSMOS, AND I PRAY THAT HE HAS THE KNOWLEDGE AND POWER TO DO SO.

FOR I FEAR HE HAS PLACED HIMSELF BEYOND OUR HELP!



AND, COUNTLESS DIMENSIONS AWAY...

STYGYRO-- ONE OF THE CREATORS! I NEVER SUSPECTED! BUT THEN, THE IN-BETWEENER DID SAY THAT THE CREATORS HAD COME FROM ALL TIMES.

HEAR ME, STYGYRO! YOU WILL NOT STAY ME FROM MY CHOSEN TASK! NOT WHILE I CONTROL--

--THE RINGS OF RAGGADORR!

YOU THINK TO BIND ME, STRANGE? ME?!!

NEVER!

NOTHING IS SUPREME IN THIS DIMENSION, STRANGE-- SAVE MADNESS! AND JUST AS MADNESS HAS ALTERED YOUR WORLD--

--SO SHALL IT ALTER YOU-- WITHIN THE PLANES OF POHLDAHK!

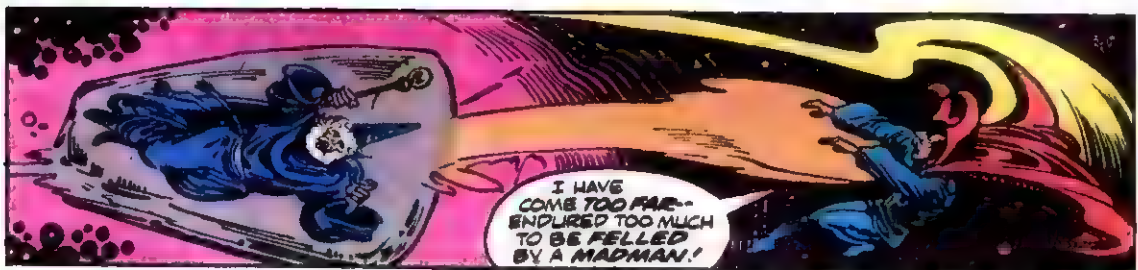
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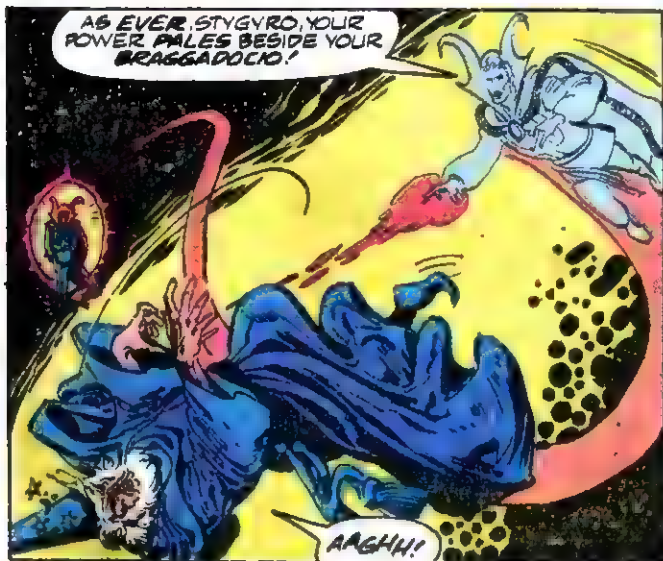
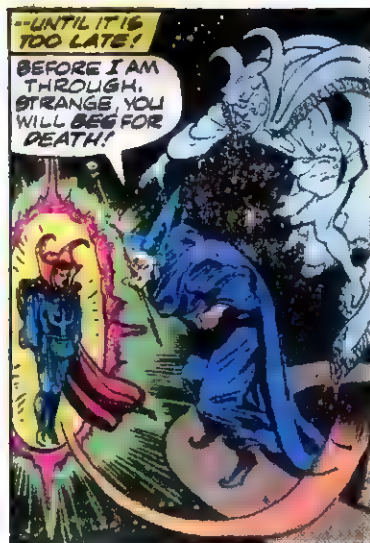
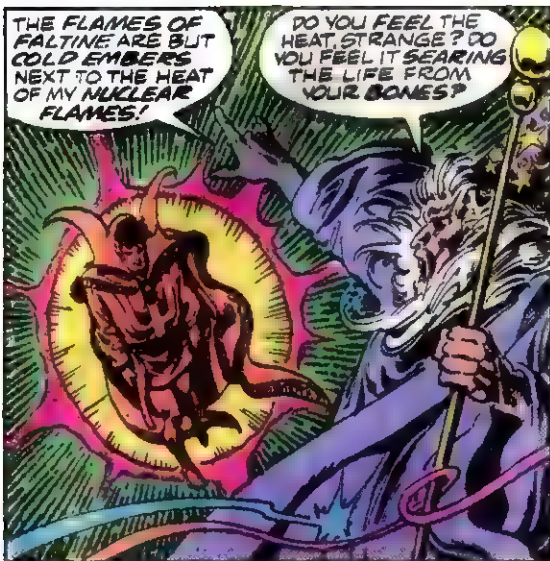
SPACE IS COLLAPSING ABOUT ME-- FORCING ME INTO TWO DIMENSIONS!

MY VERY EXISTENCE IS SHATTERING INTO A MILLION SHARDS!

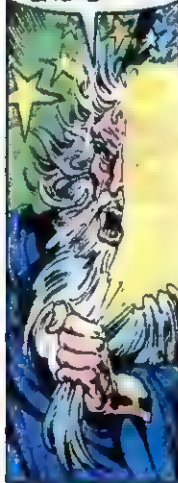
NO! AS THE FORCES OF MAGICK ARE MINE TO COMMAND, I SHALL NOT FALL!

LET THE FLAMES OF FALTIME MELD ME TOGETHER!





SEE HOW LONG
YOUR ASTRAL
SPIRIT
LASTS--



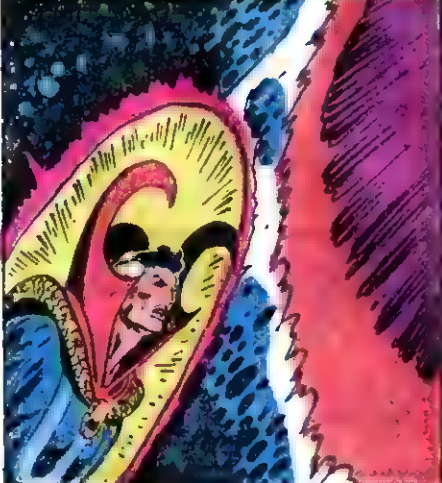
--TRAPPED
IN THE
HEART OF
A RAGING
STAR!



HIS HUMAN FORM
NOW TOTALLY
ABANDONED STYGYRO
BEGINS TO SWELL
TO FULL CELESTIAL
SIZE--



--DWARFING THE BLANKLY STARING
PHYSICAL FORM OF DR STRANGE AND
TOTALLY ENGLUFING HIS ASTRAL SELF--

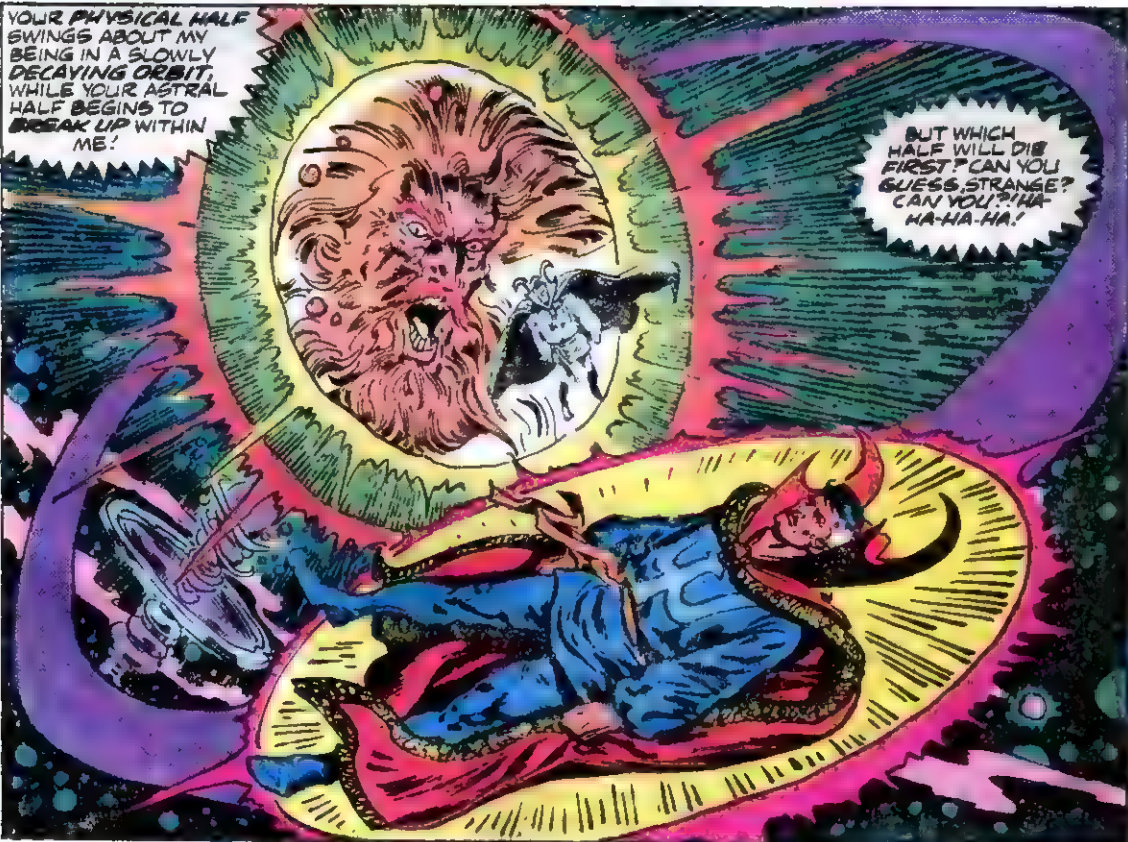


AND, AS THE SORCERER-
STAR'S GRAVITY BEGINS
TO TAKE HOLD

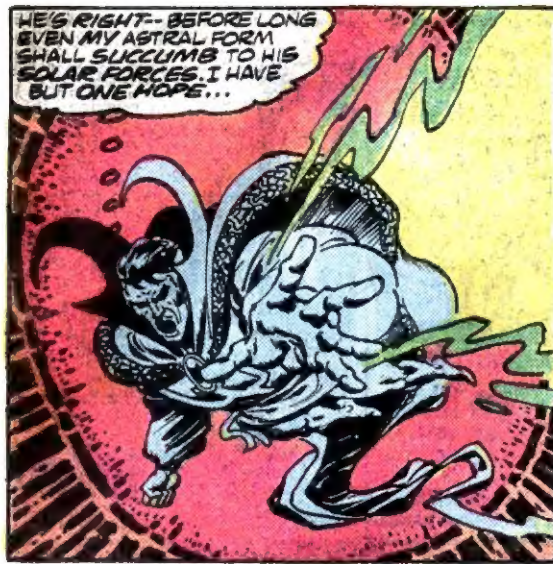


HA-HA-HA-HA!
DO YOU SEE YOUR
FATE NOW, STRANGE?
DO YOU?

YOUR PHYSICAL HALF
SWINGS ABOUT MY
BEING IN A SLOWLY
DECAYING ORBIT,
WHILE YOUR ASTRAL
HALF BEGINS TO
BREAK UP WITHIN
ME!



BUT WHICH
HALF WILL DIE
FIRST? CAN YOU
GUESS, STRANGE?
CAN YOU? HA-
HA-HA-HA!

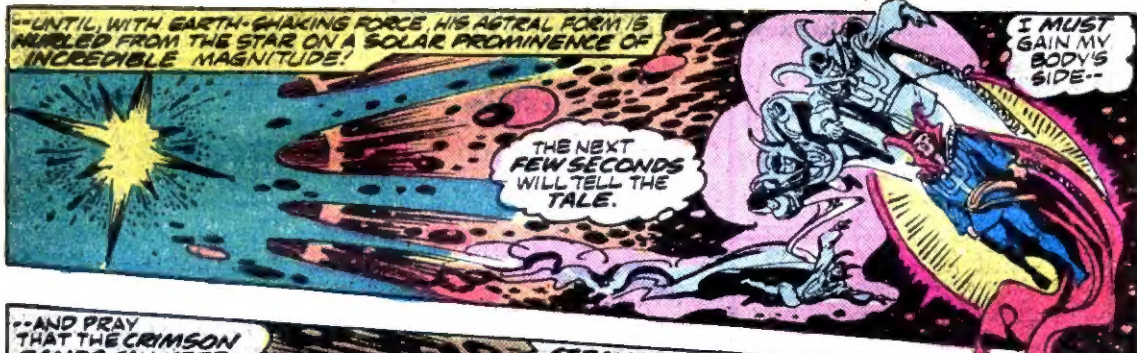


HE'S RIGHT-- BEFORE LONG
EVEN MY ASTRAL FORM
SHALL SUCCEUMB TO HIS
SOLAR FORCES. I HAVE
BUT ONE HOPE...



LIKE A HYPERACTIVE DERVISH, STRANGE IS
EVERYWHERE WITHIN HIS FIERY PRISON--
CASTING SPELL UPON SPELL--

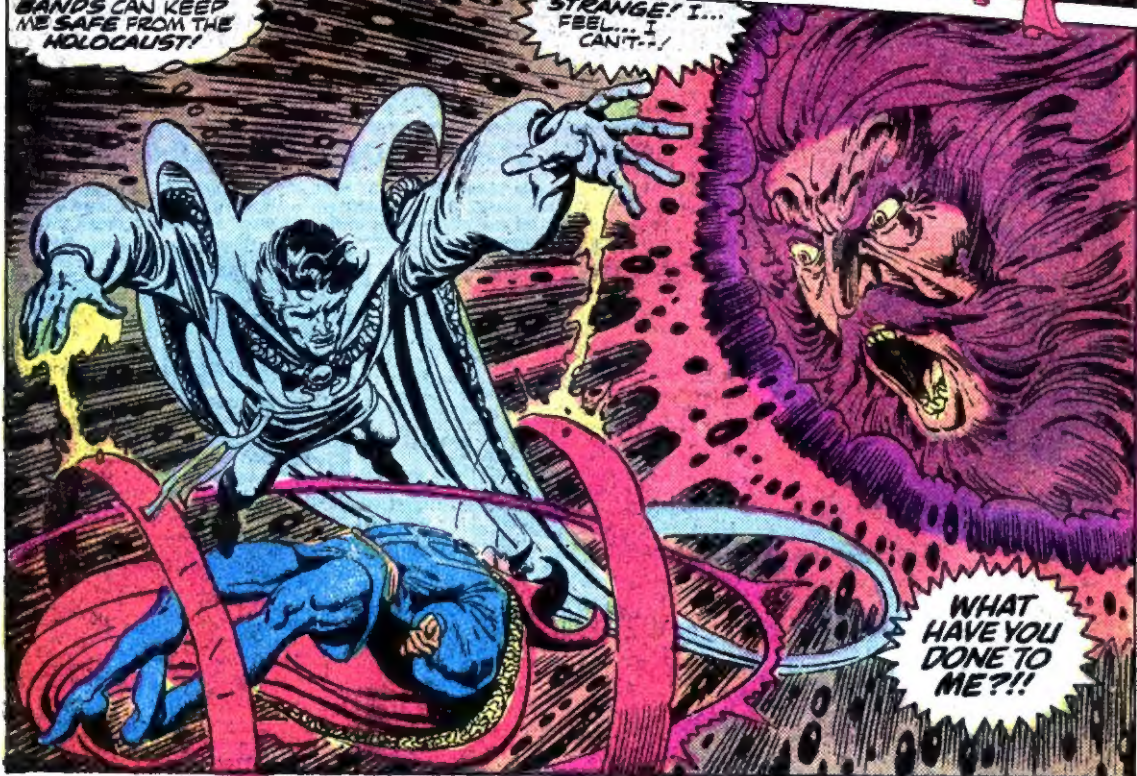
--COMPRESSING
TIME HERE,
ALTERING MOLECULAR
ACTION THERE--



--UNTIL, WITH EARTH-SHAKING FORCE, HIS ASTRAL FORM IS
HURLED FROM THE STAR ON A SOLAR PROMINENCE OF
INCREDIBLE MAGNITUDE!

THE NEXT
FEW SECONDS
WILL TELL THE
TALE.

I MUST
GAIN MY
BOY'S
SIDE--



--AND PRAY
THAT THE CRIMSON
BANDS CAN KEEP
ME SAFE FROM THE
HOLOCAUST!

STRANGE! I...
FEEL... I
CAN'T--!

WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE TO
ME?!!

AND IN ONE GREAT, BLINDING FLASH, THE ENTITY THAT WAS STYGYRO BURNS WITH ALL THE POWER OF AN UNLEASHED SUPERNOVA--

NNOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

--FOR ONE BRIEF INSTANT--

--BEFORE COLLAPSING BACK INTO THE HUMBLEST OF BLACK HOLES!

IT WORKED-- STYGYRO HAS BEEN RENDERED INERT! YET EVEN IN THIS FORM, HE POSES A DANGER, UNLESS--

--I PUT HIM IN A SAFE PLACE.

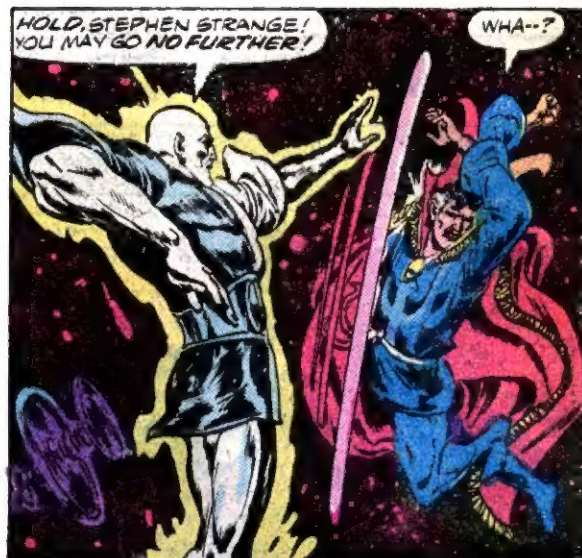
AND I KNOW JUST THE PLACE!

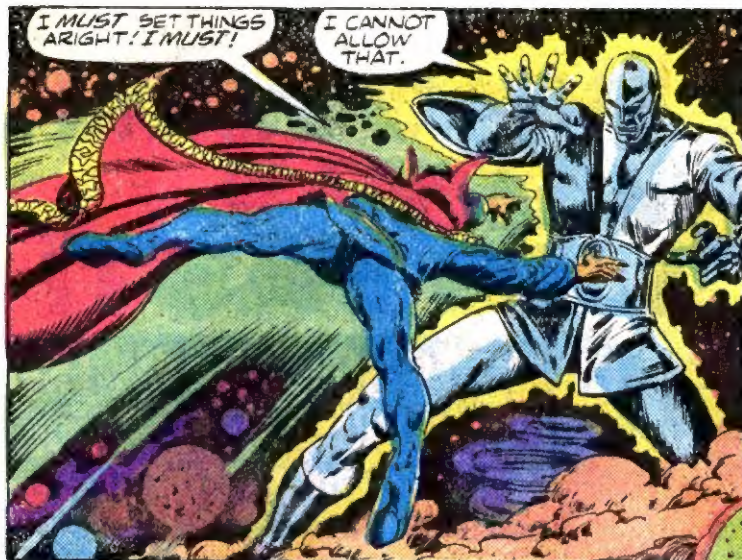
WITH ONE MYSTIC PASS, STRANGE SENDS THE COLLAPSED STAR BAILING ONTO THE WHEEL ITSELF--

--LODGING IT IN THE VERY HUB OF THAT EVER-TURNING DISC. FOR A MOMENT, THERE IS NO NOTICEABLE CHANGE--

--AND THEN THE ULTRA-GRAVITY FIELDS OF THE BLACK HOLE TAKE HOLD, DRAWING THE MICROCOSM OF THE WHEEL'S SURFACE INTO ITS CENTER--

--UNTIL THERE IS NOTHING LEFT, BUT A SMOOTH, BARREN WHEEL WITH A VERY DARK HUB.





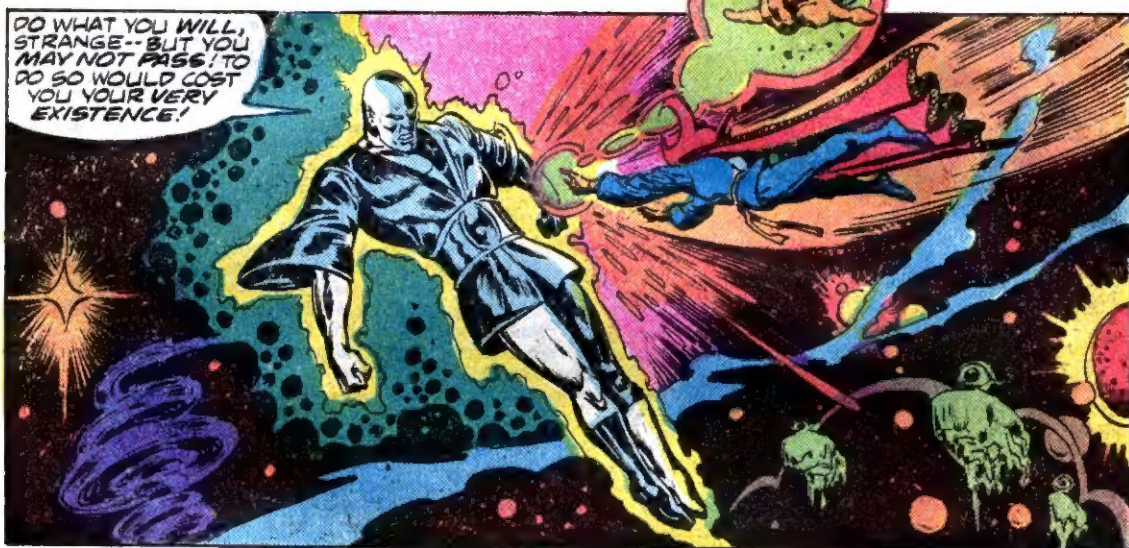
I MUST SET THINGS
ARIGHT! I MUST!

I CANNOT
ALLOW
THAT.



IN-BETWEENER, I HAVE JUST
DEFEATED ONE GUARDIAN. I
DO NOT WISH TO FIGHT
YOU--

--BUT IF
I MUST,
I SHALL!



DO WHAT YOU WILL,
STRANGE-- BUT YOU
MAY NOT PASS! TO
DO SO WOULD COST
YOU YOUR VERY
EXISTENCE!



I DO NOT FEAR DEATH, IN-
BETWEENER. I HAVE FACED
IT MANY TIMES... I HAVE
MET IT... ONCE.



SO, IF THE COST
OF RESTORING THE
UNIVERSE MUST BE
MY LIFE--



--THEN
SO BE
IT!

AND, UNDERSCORING THE DIRE CONSEQUENCES OF THE IMPENDING CONFLICT, STRANGE'S FOREHEAD
BEGINNS TO GLOW WITH THE SYMBOL OF LIFE ENDURING-- AN UNMISTAKABLE WARNING OF DEATH'S
DARK BECKONING!

NEXT STRANGE SAVES THE UNIVERSE--OR--IN-BETWEENER TRIUMPHANT!
(WHICH WILL IT BE?)